



GOVERNOR'S WORKFORCE BOARD RHODE ISLAND

BOARD MEETING MINUTES

September 10, 2015

RI Department of Labor and Training, 73-1

8:00 – 9:30 am

ATTENDANCE

BOARD MEMBERS (*DENOTES NOT PRESENT)

Suzanna Alba*, Mario Bueno*, Timothy Byrne*, Channavy Chhay*, Robin Coia, Monica Dzialo, Constance A. Howes, *Chair*, John Gregory, Mike Grey*, Stefan Pryor, *Vice Chair*, Scott Jensen, Steve Kitchin, Paul MacDonald, Cheryl Merchant*, George Nee, Janet Raymond, Nina Pande, Susan Rittscher, Bahjat Shariff, Martin Trueb, Ken Wagner*

GWB Staff: Rick Brooks, David Tremblay, Amelia Roberts, Sherri Carello, Mavis McGetrick, Dan Brown, Paul Genovesi, Kristen McKenna, Nathan Sloan.

DLT Staff: Sue Chomka, Diane Gagne and Robert Kalaskowski, Diane Vendetti, Joseph Agresti,

Guests: Alexis Stern, UWRI, Malcolm Baxter, BIS; Ruth Gobeille, Polaris MEP, Philip Less, RIDE; Kathleen Kane, St Antione HCTC, Robert Ricci, Providence Cranston, Katiuska Perez, Senate Policy Office, Jill Holloway, PDC, Mary Ellen McQueeney Lally, Richard Palmiere, Doug Tingle.

Call to Order

Chair Howes called the meeting to order at 8:03 a.m. and welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Meeting Minutes

Chair Howes asked if there was a motion to approve the minutes of the Governor's Workforce Board's meeting held on June 18, 2015.

VOTE: Steve Kitchin moved to approve, seconded by Monica Dzialo. All were in favor, the motion passed unanimously.

Chair Howes had a brief introduction of all Board members and welcomed Ken Wagner, Commissioner, RI Department of Elementary and Secondary Education to the Board.

Presentation: GWB Work Immersion for Career & Tech Education

Chair Howes asked Donna Green from The High-Tech Group and Susan Votto Chariho Area Career & Technical center to provide an update on the Work Immersion program in their schools. The Westerly Sun published an article on September 7, 2015 "***Internships with local businesses put Chariho students in driver's seat for jobs***". Donna noted students internships are a priority for the Chariho School District because they provide students with on-the-job training and marketable skills. Donna noted, "*They also supply qualified workers to companies that have trouble finding skilled employees*". Last summer, 12 Chariho students worked for Hi-Tec Profiles in Hopkinton, 3 worked at Supfina Machine in North Kingstown, 2 were hired at Electric Boat's Quonset facility and 2 more worked at the Stagecoach In Wyoming. George Nee ask, is this the first year work immersion was used in Career Tech Schools. Sherri Carello stated, yes. Chair Howes asked, what were the total amount of funds allocated for Work Immersion? Sherri stated we allocated \$100,000 and spent it all. George Nee stated this would be helpful for us to get into all schools. Rick, would like to thank Sherri for all her work on making this program a

success. Bahjat believes this model would be appropriate for the hospitality industry and he will meet with RI Hospitality to discuss the serious needs for hospitality staff in the Newport hotel area.

Chair's Comments

Chair Howes noted the Board Retreat will be held on Tuesday, October 20, 2015 from 11:30am to 4:00pm at Save the Bay, Providence. She also notified the board that the Comprehensive System Improvement Plan (CSIP) will be the main focus of the Retreat as it is to be presented to the General Assembly in November. She would like to have the Board take a look at what is important for the coming year, and hear more about Real Jobs RI. Chair Howes stated a draft of the CSIP System will be reviewed. According to Chair Howe, the main task of the board will be, "how do we move the vision we have in mind forward."

Executive Director's Report

Chair Howes asked Executive Director Rick Brooks to provide an update on GWB programs, policy, planning, and partnerships. Rick discussed the recent Workforce Innovation Grant (WIG). Rick discussed the CSIP timeline and referenced the timeline. As a SWEAP State, we received support from the National Skills Coalition and JP Morgan Chase.

We will also receive help from the Ray Marshall Center. Rick noted the state received a \$5 million American apprenticeship grant, thanks to Sarah Blusiewicz from the RI Department of Labor and Workforce Regulations Safety & Andrew Cortes of Building Futures.

Rick noted funds has been allocated to increase outreach with businesses. He met with the RDW & Commerce RI to make sure the two departments align in their marketing efforts.

Rick mentioned a RIPTA discounted bus fare. The ECO Pass is for business and training provider. This is a new program introduced by RIPTA for employers who are interested in offering their employers a reduced-cost transit benefit. The ECO-Pass is an annual unlimited ride pass. Employers pay a reduced fare rate, distribute as many cards they want, and pay only for the rides taken.

Rick also informed the Board that updated Board Resource Guide information will be sent out to them.

Committee Chair Reports

Executive Committee

Chair Howes noted the upcoming August meeting is to talk about the Comprehensive System Plan (CSIP).

Career Pathways Advisory Committee

Chair Howes asked Monica Dzialo to provide an update Career Pathways Advisory Committee. M. Dzialo introduced Kristen McKenna, Manager for Career Pathways. Kristen provide an update on Career Pathways. She noted the CPAC continues to meet on a monthly bases, refining our main priorities and goals which are capacity building, policy and programing. Kristen noted the CPAC continue to have 2 of their members report out to us, what their organization does and how that fits into the Career Pathways. She stated in August she introduced herself and experiences in Career Pathway and presented an on-line Career Pathways tool called VCN.org or virtual career network.org. She had a presentation from the Hospitality Association on their Pro Start program, which is a nationally recognized program that helps high school students into a culinary arts hotel / tourism training pathways that leads to college. Kristen Thanked Sarah Griffen, Consultant for all the work she over the last few months Career Pathways.

Strategic Investments and Evaluation Committee

Chair Howes provided an update on behalf of Chair Grey for the Strategic Investments and Evaluation Committee. Chair Howes noted we are looking at the following, WIOA and in-state expenditures, Real Jobs and how we define the return on investments.

Real Jobs RI

Chair Howes asked Scott Jensen to provide an update on Real Jobs RI. Scott mentioned the article from The Newport Daily News "*Employers needs at last been heard*". This was great press for the Governor. Scott noted under Real Jobs we need to connect young people to jobs. He stated the Governor recognized we are not going to grow unless we reach into the community and find talented people. Scott noted the department needs to adjust any rules which prevents them for getting people good jobs. Martin Trueb mentioned he would like to see us focus on accountability and he would like to see more publicity. Scott stated Sue Chomka, Assistant Director for Workforce Development at DLT is leading an effort to evaluate how the workforce system is successful under WIOA implementation to work. Chair Howes stated that Real Jobs will be a topic of discussion at the GWB Board Retreat.

Comprehensive System Improvement Plan (CSIP) Update

Chair Howes asked David Tremblay for an update on the Comprehensive System Improvement Plan. David noted this is a one-time statutory requirement. He stated that the CSIP is meant to answer system questions about how the Rhode Island workforce system is currently structured, how it operates, and whether that structure and operations are the most efficient and effective way to achieve the workforce development goals, objectives and priorities of the Governor and Rhode Island. David stated we were very fortunate to get Public Works LLC on board. They are a Pennsylvania based consultant with experience in advising governors and agency heads on workforce development, strategic planning, and system improvement. In June, they launched and reviewed National Best Practices. The focus group spent the summer working with small and large businesses. Scott Jensen and Vice Chair Stefan Pryor were a part of the focus group. David stated a working draft will be distributed before but on November 15, 2015, the final draft is due to the Governor / General Assembly.

Adjournment

With no further business, Chair Howes asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting.

VOTE: Scott Jensen moved to approve, seconded by Martin Trueb. All were in favor, the motion passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 10:00 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Dan Brown